The Birds of Nepal

PART 2

BY

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[*Continued from Vol.* **57** (2):308]

Order GRUIFORMES

Family GRUIDAE

*133. **Grus grus lilfordi** Sharpe. Common Crane.

The Common Crane was not found by us in Nepal. Hodgson's earlier collection did not contain any specimen (Gray & Gray, 1846), but his later collection presented to the British Museum after he left Nepal had this species included (Gray, 1863, p. 71). Sharpe (1894, p. 254) listed four Hodgson specimens from Nepal. Scully (1879, p. 352) observed it in the central tarai and dun in winter, and noted that it passed over the Nepal Valley on migration without alighting there. Ripley (1950b, p. 368) saw it in the western lowlands in winter. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 64) made a doubtful sight record.

*134. **Grus antigone antigone** (Linnaeus). Sarus Crane.

We did not find the Sarus Crane in Nepal. It was not included in Hodgson's first lot of specimens (Gray & Gray, 1846), but was mentioned in his later collection (Gray, 1863, p. 71). Sharpe (1894, p. 264) listed a single Hodgson skin. Scully (1879, p. 352) found it common in the central tarai. Ripley (1950b, p. 368) and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 64) met with it in the western lowlands in winter.

*135. **Anthropoïdes virgo** (Linnaeus). Demoiselle Crane.

We were unable to find the Demoiselle Crane in Nepal. Scully (1879, p. 352) observed that it was common in the central tarai and dun in winter, and that it passed over the Valley on migration, occasionally alighting there for a short while. Ripley (1950b, p. 368) found it as a visitor in the Valley in mid-winter and early spring. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 64) made a doubtful sight record.

Family Otididae

*136. **Ardeotis nigriceps** (Vigors). Great Indian Bustard.

The Great Indian Bustard has been recorded from Nepal only through Hodgson's specimen (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 130), which was not, however, included in Sharpe's (1894, pp. 327-328) list.

*137. **Eupodotis bengalensis bengalensis** (Gmelin). Bengal Florican.

*138. **Eupodotis indica** (J. F. Miller). Likh or Lesser Florican.

Both the floricans are known from Nepal only through Hodgson's specimens (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 130).

Family Rallidae

*139. **Rallus eurizonoïdes amauroptera** (Jerdon). Banded Crake.

Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 143) appears to provide the only record of the occurrence of the Banded Crake in Nepal.

*140. **Porzana pusilla pusilla** (Pallas). Baillon's Crake.

The last record of Baillon's Crake from Nepal seems to be Scully's (1879, pp. 358-359) who found it in the Valley from July to December.

*141. **Porzana fusca bakeri** Hartert. Ruddy Crake.

There does not appear to be any post-Hodgsonian record of the Ruddy Crake from Nepal.

*142. **Porzana bicolor** Walden. Elwes's Crake.

Sharpe (1894, p. 114) listed one of Hodgson's specimens under this species, and that forms its sole record from Nepal.

143. **Amaurornis akool akool** (Sykes). Brown Crake.

Dun : Hitaura : 1 ♂ (June 7).

The single specimen of the Brown Crake was obtained from a small stream in a dense patch of forest at Hitaura.

It was not included in the earlier catalogue of Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846), but the later one (Gray, 1863, p. 75) mentioned it from Nepal (one specimen, see also Sharpe, 1894, p. 156). Neither Scully (1879), nor Ripley (1950b) reported it thence, though Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 64) occasionally found it in the duns and lowlands.

My specimen is in worn plumage.

Measurements : 1 ♂ : Wing 125+; tail 56+; bill 33.

144. **Amaurornis phoenicurus chinensis** (Boddaert). Chinese White-breasted Waterhen.

Bhabar : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (March 9, May 12). Dun : Hitaura : 3 ♂♂, 1♀ (May 12-30, June 23).

The Whitebreasted Waterhen is not an uncommon bird in the central bhabar and dun on rivers, particularly in dense reed-beds.

Neither Scully (1879) nor Ripley (1950b) recorded it from Nepal.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
4 ♂♂ :	167, 169, 171, 177	72, 74, 75 (2)	40, 42, 42.5, —
2 ♀♀ :	154, 157	66, 67	35, 36

The bill in this species has been measured from the posterior edge of the shield to the tip of the bill.

*145. **Gallinula chloropus indica** Blyth. Indian Moorhen.

We did not come across the Indian Moorhen, nor did Scully (1879), or Ripley (1950b). Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 64), however, found it common in the swamps of the lowlands.

*146. **Porphyrio porphyrio poliocephalus** (Latham). Purple Moorhen.

The Purple Moorhen has not been reported from Nepal after Hodgson's collection.

*147. **Fulica atra atra** Linnaeus. Coot.

Neither Ripley (1950b) nor we came across the Coot in Nepal. However, Scully (1879, p. 358) found it as a winter visitor to the Nepal Valley in small numbers ; Proud (1949, p. 718) saw it only once (a pair) in the Valley in January ; and Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 64-65) had specimens brought for them from *c.* 915 m. and *c.* 2745 m. in west-central Nepal in November.

Family Turnicidae

*148. **Turnix sylvatica dussumier** (Temminck). Little Bustard-Quail.

Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 129) furnishes the only record of the Little Bustard-Quail from Nepal.

149. **Turnix tanki tanki** Blyth. Indian Button Quail.

Turnix tanki Blyth, 1843, *J. Asiat. Soc. Beng.* **12**:180. (No locality=Bengal, based on drawing by Buchanan-Hamilton, hereby restricted to northern suburbs of Calcutta.)

Dun : Hitaura : 3 ♀♀ (May 14, 24, July 1).

The Indian Button Quail is rather scarce in central Nepal, having been met with by us only on a few occasions in scrub and in cultivated fields in the dun.

Scully (1879), Ripley (1950b), and Rand & Fleming (1957) do not include it in their lists.

Measurements : 3 ♀♀ : Wing 85, 88 (2) ; tail 33, — (2) ; bill 14, 15 (2).

150. **Turnix suscitator plumbipes** (Hodgson). Himalayan Bustard-Quail.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂ (March 9). DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♂ (May 10).

The Himalayan Bustard-Quail does not appear to be common in Nepal. Although Scully (1879, p. 350) recorded a single example from the Nepal Valley, subsequent workers failed to find it there. Ripley (1950b, p. 368) reported it only from the eastern tarai in winter, and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 63) from *c.* 1065 m. in western Nepal in the same season.

Measurements : 2 ♂♂ : Wing 86, 92 ; tail 30+, 34 ; bill 14, 14.5.

Order CHARADRIIFORMES

Family JACANIDAE

*151. **Hydrophasianus chirurgus** (Scopoli). Pheasant-tailed Jaçana.

Hodgson's collection provides the only record of the Pheasant-tailed Jaçana from Nepal.

*152. **Metopidius indicus** (Latham). Bronzewinged Jaçana.

Rand & Fleming's (1957, p. 65) is the only post-Hodgsonian record of this jaçana from Nepal. They found it common throughout the tarai.

Family BURHINIDAE

153. **Burhinus oedicnemus indicus** (Salvadori). Indian Stone Plover.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂ (March 9). DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂ (May 24).

We found the Stone Plover on a few occasions on the sandy or shingle beds of the larger rivers in the bhabar and dun of central Nepal.

Scully (1879) did not record it from Nepal. Ripley (1950b, p. 369) found it in the western tarai in winter. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 68) reported it from the central dun in April. Proud (1955, p. 72), on the other hand, came across it in the Nepal Valley once on August 28.

Measurements : 2 ♂♂ : Wing 214, 217 ; tail 110+, 112+ ; bill 42, 43.

*154. **Burhinus recurvirostris** (Cuvier). Great Stone Plover.

There has been no report of the occurrence of this stone plover in Nepal after Hodgson's (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 131).

Family HAEMATOPODIDAE

*155. **Haematopus ostralegus osculans** Swinhoe. Eastern Oystercatcher.

The occurrence of the Oystercatcher in Nepal is known only from Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 133).

Family CHARADRIIDAE

Subfamily CHARADRIINAE

I agree with Bock (1958, pp. 57-59) in synonymizing *Hoplopterus* Bonaparte, *Lobivanellus* G. R. Gray, *Chettusia* Bonaparte, *Lobipluvia* Bonaparte, and *Microsarcops* Sharpe with the genus *Vanellus* Brisson.

*156. **Vanellus leucurus** (Lichtenstein). Whitetailed Lapwing.

The first and only record of the occurrence of the Whitetailed Lapwing in Nepal is to be credited to Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 65) who found it on two occasions in the lowlands of western Nepal in winter.

*157. **Vanellus vanellus** (Linnaeus). Lapwing or Peewit.

Hodgson's collection provides the sole record of the occurrence of the peewit in Nepal.

158. **Vanellus indicus indicus** (Boddaert). Indian Redwattled Lapwing.

TARAI : Simra : 1 ♂ (March 6). BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂ (March 9). DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂, 1 juv. ♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 juv. ♀ (June 4, 23, July 15).

The Redwattled Lapwing is common on the streams, paddy fields, etc. of the central tarai, bhabar, and dun. It also occurs in small numbers in the Nepal Valley where it has been reported to be resident (Scully, 1879, p. 352 ; Proud, 1949, p. 718). Ripley (1950b, p. 368) recorded it from the tarai in winter, and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 65) found it up to *c.* 1065 m. in winter.

The adult specimens taken in June and July are worn.

The juvenile female specimen (June 4) is very young. It has the crown with rufous edged feathers, mantle and scapulars barred with pale rufous brown, and the chin and throat white. The juvenile male (June 23) is a little larger. It is similar in coloration to the juvenile female, but has the crown dark brown.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
3 ♂♂ :	218, 232, 234	110, 116+, 119	37.5, 39, 40
2 ♀♀ :	221, 224	107+, 112+	38 (2)

159. **Vanellus duvaucelii** (Lesson). Indian Spurwinged Plover.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 2 ♂♂ (March 6, 9). DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (May 25, 26, June 19).

The Spurwinged Plover is quite a common bird in Nepal, occurring on the rivers of the bhabar and dun, especially on their shingle beds. We did not find it in the Nepal Valley, although Scully (1879, p. 352) recorded it as fairly common there during summer. Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 65-66) noted it as common in western and west-central Nepal

from the tarai up to *c.* 915 m. in winter. Biswas (1960a) found it on the banks of Arun River, eastern Nepal, at *c.* 670 m. in June. Ripley (1950b) failed to come across it in Nepal.

My June specimen is worn.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
3 ♂♂ :	194, 196, 204	89, 92, 97	35, 36 (2)
2 ♀♀ :	193, 202	88, 90	33.5, —

Some authors, such as Ripley (in press)[1] prefer to treat *duvaucelii* as a subspecies of *V. spinosus*, with which I do not agree.

*160. **Vanellus malabaricus** (Boddaert). Yellow-wattled Lapwing.

The only post-Hodgsonian record of the Yellow-wattled Lapwing from Nepal is due to Proud (1949, p. 718) who occasionally found it in the Valley during monsoon.

*161. **Pluvialis squatarola** (Linnaeus). Grey Plover.

The occurrence of the Grey Plover in Nepal is based only on Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 131).

*162. **Pluvialis dominica fulva** (Gmelin). Eastern Golden Plover.

The last record of the Golden Plover in Nepal was Scully's (1879, p. 351) who found it in the Valley on passage in September-October.

*163. **Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii** Lesson. Large Sand Plover.

Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 132) furnishes the sole record of the Large Sand Plover from Nepal.

164. **Charadrius dubius jerdoni** (Legge). Jerdon's Little Ringed Plover.

NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot, Kathmandu : 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (April 12, 25).

We found the Little Ringed Plover not uncommonly in the Nepal Valley from about the beginning of April. It occurred on rivers and streams in pairs or in loose parties. Ripley (1950b) did not record it from Nepal.

A male and a female taken on April 25 had somewhat enlarged gonads. The testes measured 5×4 (right) and 7×4 (left), and the ovary, 6×6, the largest ovum being 3.25 mm. in diameter.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown; eyelids bright yellow; bill black with the base of the upper mandible and the basal third of the lower mandible yellow; legs and feet dull greyish olive; claws black; pads fleshy.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
2 ♂♂ :	107, 109	55, 58	16, 17
2 ♀♀ :	105, 111	54, 60	16, 17

[1] References to Ripley (in press) in parts 1 and 2 of this series and in the parts to follow are based on the galley proofs of A SYNOPSIS OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, which the author had the privilege of seeing. The text as finally published may, of course, differ from the galley proofs.

*165. **Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus** Linnaeus. Kentish Plover.

Although not mentioned in either edition of catalogues of Hodgson's collections (Gray & Gray, 1846 ; Gray, 1863), three specimens of the Kentish Plover from Nepal presented by Hodgson were listed by Sharpe (1896, p. 281). Later, only Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 66) have reported it from Nepal (eastern tarai) in winter.

*166. **Charadrius placidus** J. E. & G. R. Gray. Longbilled Ringed Plover.

The last record of this plover from Nepal was by Scully (1879, p. 351) who found it as an uncommon bird in Nawakot district, central Nepal, in November.

*167. **Charadrius mongolus atrifrons** Wagler. Lesser Sand Plover.

The only Nepali record of this Sand Plover is in Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 133).

Subfamily SCOLOPACINAE

*168. **Numenius phaeopus ? variegatus** (Scopoli). Eastern Whimbrel.

The Whimbrel has not been reported from Nepal after Hodgson's collection.

*169. **Numenius arquata orientalis** C. L. Brehm. Eastern Curlew.

The post-Hodgsonian records of the Curlew in Nepal are Scully's (1879, p. 356) who found it as a rare visitor to the Valley where Proud (1949, p. 718) observed it only once (August) ; and Biswas's (1960a) who reported hearing it on the Khumbu glacier, eastern Nepal, at *c.* 5790 m. in May.

*170. **Limosa limosa limosa** (Linnaeus). Blacktailed Godwit.

Scully's (1879, p. 356) is the only record of the Blacktailed Godwit from Nepal since Hodgson's days.

*171. **Tringa erythropus** (Pallas). Spotted or Dusky Redshank.

There seem to be only two records of this redshank from Nepal. The first one was by Hodgson (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 139), and the last, by Ripley (1950b, p. 368) who found it between December and February both in western (Karnali river) and in eastern (Kosi river) Nepal.

*172. **Tringa totanus eurhinus** (Oberholser). Eastern Redshank.

The only post-Hodgsonian record of the Eastern Redshank is due to Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 66) who took a specimen at Pokhara (*c.* 915 m.), west-central Nepal, in December.

*173. **Tringa nebularia** (Gunnerus). Greenshank.

Scully (1879, p. 358) noted it as fairly common from September through winter in central Nepal (plains and tarai, Nawakot district, Nepal Valley). Proud (1955, p. 72) observed it common in the Nepal Valley only on autumn migration (August-September). Ripley (1950b, p. 368), and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 66) found it in both the western and eastern lowlands in winter.

174. **Tringa ochropus** Linnaeus. Green Sandpiper.

NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu (Bagmati and Bishnumati rivers), Thankot : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 1 unsexed (March 19, April 14, 28).

The Green Sandpiper was found by us in small numbers on the rivers of the Nepal Valley during late March and April. It would appear that its numbers had already dwindled by mid-March. By the end of April, the majority had left for the breeding quarters.

Lowndes (1955, p. 37) noted it singly on several occasions at Bagra, Marsiyandi Valley, central Nepal, in July.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
2 ♂♂ :	140, 145	55, 57	40, —
1 ♀ :	139	57	40
1 unsexed :	145	61	42.5

*175. **Tringa glareola** Linnaeus. Wood Sandpiper.

The post-Hodgsonian records of the Wood Sandpiper from Nepal consist of Proud's (1955, p. 72) who found it common in the Nepal Valley on passage in autumn and spring, and Rand & Fleming's (1957, p. 67) who noted it occasionally in the lowlands of both west-central and eastern Nepal during winter.

176. **Actitis hypoleucos hypoleucos** (Linnaeus). Common Sandpiper.

NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu, Thankot : 2 ♀♀ (April 12, 25).

The Common Sandpiper is fairly common on the rivers of the Nepal Valley in spring. It is generally found singly along the edges of water.

Ripley (1950b, p. 368) and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 67) found it in the western and eastern lowlands in winter ; and Biswas (1960a) recorded it at *c.* 855 m. in Chautara district, central Nepal, on January 27.

My April 12 specimen has the wings in moult.

The specimen taken on April 25 had somewhat enlarged ovary, with the ova of the size of mustard seeds, the largest one being 2 mm.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown ; bill greenish horny, with almost black anterior third and very pale sides of the middle part of the lower mandible ; legs and feet dull greenish grey ; claws horny ; pads dull greenish grey.

Measurements : 2 ♀♀ : Wing 116, — ; tail 54, 60 ; bill 28, 30.

177. **Gallinago solitaria solitaria** Hodgson. Solitary Snipe.

CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 ♀ (April 19).

This was the only specimen of the Solitary Snipe found by us in Nepal. However, Scully (1879, p. 354) noted it to be not uncommon in the Valley from October to March, and Stevens (1925c, p. 892) found it on Singalila Range, eastern Nepal, at *c.* 3050 m. in January. Neither Ripley (1950b), nor Rand & Fleming (1957) record it from Nepal.

Measurements : 1 ♀ : Wing 167; tail 72; bill 83.

*178. **Gallinago nemoricola** Hodgson. Wood Snipe.

The Wood Snipe was not found by us, or by Rand & Fleming (1957) in Nepal. Scully (1879, p. 353) noted it to be rare in the Nepal Valley, having seen it there only twice in winter. Mr. Kilbourne, as reported by Ripley (1950b, p. 368), found it in the Valley in small numbers.

*179. **Gallinago stenura** (Bonaparte). Pintail Snipe.

We did not come across the Pintail Snipe in Nepal, nor did Rand & Fleming (1957). Scully (1879, p. 354), and Proud (1949, p. 718), however, reported it on passage in the Nepal Valley where many birds stay on for the winter.

*180. **Gallinago gallinago gallinago** (Linnaeus). Fantail Snipe.

Neither Rand & Fleming (1957) nor we found this snipe in Nepal. Scully (1879, pp. 355-356) and Proud (1949, p. 718) both noted it mainly on passage in the Nepal Valley, although many birds stay on there for the winter. Scully further observed that it was much less common than the Pintail Snipe. Ripley (1950b, p. 368) reports that Mr. Kilbourne, on the other hand, found the Fantail to be the commonest of the snipes in the Valley.

*181. **Gallinago minima** (Brünnich). Jack Snipe.

We were unable to find the Jack Snipe in Nepal, neither were Rand & Fleming (1957). Scully (1879, p. 356) observed it mainly on passage in the Nepal Valley where many examples spent the winter, and in the Nawakot district in November. Proud (1949, p. 718), however, describes it as a scarce passage migrant in the Valley where a few probably spend the winter.

182. **Scolopax rusticola rusticola** Linnaeus. Woodcock.

NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♀ (April 6).

We found the Woodcock rather rare in central Nepal during spring and summer. This specimen was taken in a small swampy patch in the forest off Thankot.

Scully (1879, p. 353) reported that the Woodcock left the Valley at the end of February, and Proud (1949, p. 718) found it as a scarce winter

visitor there. Ripley (1950b, p. 368) saw and trapped it in eastern Nepal at *c.* 2745 m. in winter. Lowndes (1955, p. 37) observed it 'roding' on May 25 at *c.* 1980 m. in the Marsiyandi Valley, central Nepal. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 67) obtained specimens in the Nepal Valley in January, and in eastern Nepal at *c.* 2895 m. in December. Biswas (1960a) saw it ' roding ' on a few occasions in Khumbu, eastern Nepal, at *c.* 3655 m. early in April.

Measurements : 1 ♀ : Wing 182 ; tail 76 ; bill —.

Resuscitation of Hodgson's name *Scolopax indicus*, 1837 (type locality Nepal) by Koelz (1954, p. 32) for the birds breeding ' throughout the Himalayas and to the east ' does not seem to be justified.

183. **Calidris minutus** (Leisler). Little Stint.

NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu : 1 ♀ (April 25).

This solitary specimen of the Little Stint was found in a flock of Temminck's Stint on Bagmati river. It was not reported from Nepal by Scully (1879), or Ripley (1950b), or Rand & Fleming (1957).

The wings of the specimen are in moult. The outermost primaries are still growing, but the other remiges have already moulted.

The specimen had a slightly swollen ovary with finely granular ova.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown ; bill dark horny with greenish tinge on base ; legs and feet very deep greenish horny ; claws horny ; pads greenish grey.

Measurements : 1 ♀ : Wing — ; tail 39 ; bill —.

Gladkov (1957, pp. 195-203) has shown that *Calidris minuta* and *C. ruficollis* are two separate species.

184. **Calidris temminckii** (Leisler). Temminck's Stint.

NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu : 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (March 23, April 25).

Temminck's Stint is quite common in spring on the sandy banks and islands of Bagmati river in the vicinity of Kathmandu. In March and early April it was observed in flocks of a dozen birds or so in the morning, but later in the day and in the afternoon they moved away elsewhere. During the second week of April the flocks were found to be just beginning to break up into pairs.

Ripley (1950b) did not find it in Nepal. Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 67-68) noted it in the western and eastern lowlands in winter.

Two of my specimens (1 ♂, 1 ♀) taken on March 23, have the rectrices in moult.

The March 23 specimens had the gonads but slightly enlarged (testes 2×1.5 each, ovary 5.5×4, finely granular), and the April 25 specimens had them more enlarged, the ovaries having coarsely granular ova.

Colours of soft parts : In March : Iris dark brown; bill black with pale horny on base of the upper mandible and pale yellowish brown on base of the lower mandible; legs and feet yellowish brown; claws black; pads yellowish brown.

In April : Iris dark brown ; bill black with greenish to

dark greenish horny on basal half of the upper mandible and olive on basal third of the lower mandible; legs and feet olive to yellowish olive; claws black; pads olive brown.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
2 ♂♂ :	95.5, 97	51.5, —	18, 20
3 ♀♀ :	95, 101 (2)	49.5, 51	20, 20.5 (2)

*185. **Calidris alpinus** (Linnaeus) ? subspecies. Dunlin.

Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 140) provides the sole record of the occurrence of the Dunlin in Nepal.

*186. **Philomachus pugnax** (Linnaeus). Ruff and Reeve.

We did not come across the Ruff and Reeve in Nepal, nor did Ripley (1950b) or Rand & Fleming (1957). Scully (1879, p. 357), and Proud (1955, p. 72) recorded this species in the Nepal Valley on passage in autumn.

Subfamily RECURVIROSTRINAE

*187. **Himantopus himantopus himantopus** (Linnaeus). Blackwinged Stilt.

*188. **Recurvirostra avosetta** Linnaeus. Avocet.

The only records of the Blackwinged Stilt and the Avocet from Nepal are based on Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 138).

Subfamily IBIDORHYNCHINAE

*189. **Ibidorhyncha struthersii** Vigors. Ibisbill.

We did not find the Ibisbill in Nepal, nor did Scully (1879). Ripley (1950b, p. 368) observed it in the eastern tarai (Chatra) in February. Polunin (1955, p. 896) reported it from the Langtang Valley, central Nepal, from June to September. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 68) found it at *c.* 760 m. in west-central Nepal in February. Biswas (1960a) observed it at *c.* 855 m. on Sun Kosi river at Dolalghat, Chautara district, central Nepal, in late January.

Subfamily ROSTRATULINAE

*190. **Rostratula benghalensis benghalensis** (Linnaeus). Painted Snipe.

Hodgson found it in the hills and plains of Nepal in winter (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 140). It has not since been reported from that country.

Family Glareolidae

*191. **Cursorius coromandelicus** (Gmelin). Indian Courser.

After Hodgson's record (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 131), the Indian Courser has been reported from Nepal only by Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 68) from the western tarai (once).

*192. **Glareola pratincola maldivarum** J. R. Forster. Large Indian Pratincole or Swallow-Plover.

The occurrence of the Large Indian Pratincole in Nepal is known only from Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 131).

*193. **Glareola lactea** Temminck. Small Indian Pratincole or Sand Plover.

The post-Hodgsonian records of this pratincole from Nepal are Ripley's (1950b, p. 369) who saw it in the eastern tarai (Kosi river) in February, and Rand & Fleming's (1957, p. 68) who found it in the central dun at *c.* 760 m. in April.

Family Laridae

*194. **Larus ichthyaetus** Pallas. Great Blackheaded Gull.

The first and the only record of the Great Blackheaded Gull in Nepal has been provided by Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 68-69) who occasionally found it along the larger rivers of the tarai in winter.

*195. **Larus brunnicephalus** Jerdon. Brownheaded Gull.

Hodgson's single specimen (Salvin, 1896, p. 218) forms the sole record of the Brownheaded Gull from Nepal.

*196. **Larus ridibundus** Linnaeus. Blackheaded Gull.

Salvin (1896, p. 215) listed a single Hodgson skin of the Blackheaded Gull from Nepal in the British Museum ; but in Gray & Gray's catalogue (1846, p. 148) of Hodgson's collection, this species was mixed up with *L. brunnicephalus*. The only other record from Nepal has been made by Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 69) who occasionally found it on the rivers of the lowlands in winter.

*197. **Sterna aurantia** J. E. Gray. Indian River Tern.

Neither Ripley (1950b), nor we came across the Indian River Tern in Nepal, but Scully (1879, p. 364) found it in the Nepal Valley on passage in early winter and early summer ; Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 69) recorded it as a common bird of the lowlands in winter ; and Biswas (1960a) found it on Arun river, eastern Nepal, at *c.* 670 m. in June.

*198. **Sterna hirundo tibetana** Saunders. Tibetan Tern.

The only record of the Tibetan Tern from Nepal has been furnished by Proud (1955, p. 72) who found it in the Nepal Valley on autumnal migration when it sometimes remained there for a day or two.

*199. **Sterna acuticauda** J. E. Gray. Blackbellied Tern.

Although the Blackbellied Tern was not listed in Gray & Gray's (1846) catalogue, a single skin from Nepal, presented by Hodgson, is included in Salvin's (1896, p. 45) catalogue. The two other records from Nepal are Rand & Fleming's (1957, p. 69) who found it fairly common in the tarai during winter, and Biswas's (1960a) who noted it on Arun and Sabhaya rivers, eastern Nepal, at *c.* 670-760 m. in June.

Order COLUMBIFORMES

Family PTEROCLIDAE

*200. **Pterocles exustus erlangeri** (Neumann). Common Sandgrouse.

*201. **Pterocles indicus indicus** (Gmelin). Painted Sandgrouse.

Both these sandgrouse are known from Nepal only through Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 129).

*202. **Pterocles orientalis orientalis** (Linnaeus). Imperial Sandgrouse.

Hodgson's single specimen (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 129 ; Ogilvie-Grant, 1893, p. 21), obviously a stray bird, forms the sole record of the Imperial Sandgrouse in Nepal.

Family COLUMBIDAE

203. **Treron apicauda apicauda** Blyth. Pintailed Green Pigeon.

Treron apicauda 'Hodgson' Blyth, 1845, *J. Asiat. Soc. Beng.* **14** : 854. ('Southeastern Himalaya and hill ranges of Assam, common at Darjeeling', hereby restricted to Darjiling, West Bengal.)

DUN : Hitaura : 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 1 juv. ♀ (May 12—June 2).

The Pintailed Green Pigeon appears rather scarce in Nepal. We found it in small numbers only in the central dun. It was observed partial to forests on hills and tall trees with dense foliage. Ours appears to be the only post-Hodgsonian record of this species from Nepal.

The juvenile female specimen has the feathers of the back with greyish centres, and its central rectrices are not so narrow as those of the adult.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Rhamphotheca
3 ♂♂ :	164+, 176, 177	182, —, 184	10, 10.5 (2)
1 ♀ :	166	174+	10

The tail measurements of males as given by Baker (1928, p. 199) appear too large.

The nominate subspecies intergrades with *laotinus* in Assam (Margherita, Khasi Hills, Cachar) and north-western Burma (Chindwin, Myitkina).

204. **Treron sphenura sphenura** (Vigors). Wedgetailed Green Pigeon.

Vinago sphenura Vigors, 1831, (1832), *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* (1):173. (Himalayas = Darjiling, according to Baker, 1922e, p. 832.)

DUN : Hitaura, Bhimphedi : 4 ♂♂, 3♀♀ (March 13, May 5-19, June 1). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 4♂♂, 3♀♀ (April 8-27).

The Wedgetailed Green Pigeon is a common bird of central Nepal from the Nepal Valley down to the dun. Ripley (1950b, p. 369) found it in eastern Nepal in winter, and Biswas (1960a) in summer, although Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 69) noted it to be absent in the hills of both western and eastern Nepal in winter. Lowndes (1955, p. 36) reported it to be common in Manangbhot, central Nepal, at *c.* 2440 m. in August.

Measurements :

	8 ♂♂	6 ♀♀
Wing :	176, 180, 181, 182 (2), 187, 188, —	171, 172, 173, 175, 176, 179
Tail :	126+, 129, 130 (2), 134, 135, 140, 145	124 (3), 125, 126,—
Rhamphotheca :	9.5 (2), 10 (3), 11, —(2)	9 (3), 9.5,—(2)

*205. **Treron curvirostra nipalensis** (Hodgson). Thickbilled Green Pigeon.

This green pigeon was not found in Nepal by Scully (1879) or Ripley (1950b) or by us. Polunin (1955, p. 895) obtained it in summer at *c.* 2745 m. in the Langtang Valley, central Nepal, and Rand & Fleming (1955, pp. 69-70) reported it as an uncommon bird in the central lowlands in April.

*206. **Treron pompadora conoveri** Rand & Fleming. Conover's Green Pigeon.

Rand & Fleming (1953, p. 201 ; 1957, p. 70), who discovered this race, are the first to report the occurrence of this species in Nepal. They found it in winter in flocks of 4-15 in heavy forest in the tarai of west-central Nepal.

*207. **Treron bicincta bicincta** (Jerdon). Orangebreasted Green Pigeon.

The earlier collection of Hodgson (Gray & Gray, 1846) did not contain this green pigeon, but his later collection which contained birds from Nepal as well as from other places, included this species (Gray, 1863, p. 66). The first definite Nepali record of the species is owed to Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 70) who occasionally found it in winter in the west-central lowlands.

208. **Treron phoenicoptera phoenicoptera** (Latham). Bengal Green Pigeon.

DUN : Hitaura : 7 ♂♂, 1 juv. ♂ (June 7, 16-19, July 14-29).

The Bengal Green Pigeon is common in the central dun particularly on fruit-bearing *Ficus* trees. Ripley (1950b, p. 369), and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 70) found it in lower elevations of western and west-central Nepal, respectively.

The juvenile specimen (♂) has brown primaries.

One of my adult males (June 7) had somewhat enlarged testes, the right one measuring 11.5 × 5.5 mm., and the left, 9.5 × 6 mm.

Measurements : 7♂♂ : Wing 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200 (2) ; tail 112, 113, 115, 119, 120, 122 (2) ; rhamphotheca 12, 13 (2), 13+, 13.5, —(2).

[**Ducula aenea sylvatica** (Tickell). Green Imperial Pigeon.

Baker (1928, p. 208) included Nepal within the range of the Green Imperial Pigeon, presumably based on a specimen in the British Museum (ex Salvin-Godman Collection) which doubtfully came from Nepal (Salvadori, 1893, p. 193). Baker's action has, however, been followed by Peters (1937, p. 46) and Ripley (in press). Although the possibility of its occurrence in Nepal cannot be denied, I am unable to trace any authentic report to that effect.]

*209. **Ducula badia insignis** Hodgson. Imperial Pigeon.

The Imperial Pigeon has not been reported from Nepal since Hodgson's days.

*210. **Columba leuconota leuconota** Vigors. Snow Pigeon.

Neither Ripley (1950b), nor Rand & Fleming (1957) or we found the Snow Pigeon in Nepal. Scully (1879, p. 340) reported it from ' the upper northern regions of Nepal '. Smythies (1948, p. 442) found it in autumn at *c.* 4570 m. in the Gandak-Kosi watershed, central Nepal. Polunin (1955, p. 895) noted it to be quite common in summer above forest zone up to *c.* 4875 m. or more in the Langtang Valley, central Nepal. He further reported of a flock that remained all August at *c.* 3350 m. Lowndes (1955, p. 36) found it in summer to be very common between *c.* 3350 m. and 4725 m. and less common higher up in the Manangbhot area, central Nepal. Biswas (1960a) observed it at *c.* 2285-3050 m. in February and later up to April between *c.* 3655 and 4875 m. in Khumbu, eastern Nepal.

211. **Columba livia intermedia** Strickland. Indian Blue Rock Pigeon.

DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂ (May 28). NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu, Thankot : 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (March 21-27).

The Blue Rock Pigeon is commonly found in flocks from the central dun up to the Nepal Valley, in and around villages and towns, as well as about cultivated fields.

Lowndes (1955, p. 36) reported it to be common in summer at *c.* 3050-3960 m. in Manangbhot, central Nepal, and Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 70-71) at *c.* 915 m. and *c.* 2805 m. in winter in west-central Nepal.

My female specimen from Kathmandu (March 21) had granular ovary. This specimen still has some amount of juvenile plumage. There is much brown on wing coverts and breast, very little metallic purple and green, not very dark black bands on secondaries, browner primaries, and lower breast and abdomen ashy with a few brown feathers. There is no sign of moult.

The male specimen from Hitaura (May 28) has well-developed testes, measuring 14 × 7.5 mm. (right).

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Rhamphotheca
3 ♂♂ :	220, 221, 227	111, 114, 117	10, 10.5, 11.5
2 ♀♀ :	213, 216	102, 105	10, 10.5

*212. **Columba palumbus casiotis** (Bonaparte). Wood Pigeon.

Although Nepal falls within the range of the Wood Pigeon, it has not been included in any of the lists of Nepal birds, nor has it been observed by us. Salvadori (1893, p. 303), however, mentioned one specimen from that country, presented by Hodgson to the British Museum.

213. **Columba arquatrix hodgsonii** Vigors. Speckled Wood Pigeon.

Columba Hodgsonii Vigors, 1832, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* (2):16. (Himalayas= Nepal, according to Baker, 1922e, p. 834.)

NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♂ (April 4).

The Speckled Wood Pigeon did not appear to be a common bird in central Nepal. A pair was seen by us once in the forest at Thankot in April, and a small flock at Godavari in May.

Scully (1879, p. 339) noted it to be a winter visitor (December to February) to the foot of the hills round the Nepal Valley where it was common at certain places. Ripley (1950b, p. 369) found it only in the Valley and only in April-May, thus corresponding with our observation. Lowndes (1955, p. 36) saw several birds in summer at *c.* 3050 m. in Manangbhot, and Proud (1955, p. 71) found it common in the Nepal Valley. Rand & Fleming (1957) did not come across it.

Measurements : 1 ♂ : Wing 228 ; tail 150 ; rhamphotheca 10.

Recently, Goodwin (1959, p. 14) suggests that *C. arquatrix* and *C. hodgsonii* should be treated as two distinct species.

214. **Columba pulchricollis** Blyth. Ashy Wood Pigeon.

DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♂ (May 10).

The Ashy Wood Pigeon does not appear to be a common bird in Nepal. It was seen by us only on a few occasions on the Mahabharat Range in dense forests.

Ripley (1950b, pp. 369-370) found it not uncommon in the heavily wooded parts of the Nepal Valley. He also recorded it from eastern Nepal. Proud (1955, p. 71) found it scarce in the Valley. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 71) reported it only from the heavily wooded regions of west-central Nepal. Scully (1879) did not include it in his list.

Measurements : 1 ♂ : Wing 210 ; tail 126 ; rhamphotheca 10.

215. **Macropygia unchall tusalia** (Blyth). Bartailed Cuckoo-Dove.

DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂ (May 15). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♀ (March 26).

The Bartailed Cuckoo-Dove was found by us in small numbers in the Nepal Valley in forests at the base of the Chandragiri near Thankot, and of the Phulchauki Danda about Godavari during March-May. It was observed again in the central dun around Hitaura in May-June.

Ripley (1950b, p. 370) recorded it from the Chandragiri Pass above Thankot, and in eastern Nepal at *c.* 2440 m. Neither Scully (1879), nor Rand & Fleming (1957) found it in Nepal.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Rhamphotheca
1 ♂ :	203	202	7
1 ♀ :	194	187	7

216. **Streptopelia orientalis meena** (Sykes). Western Rufous Turtle Dove.

217. **Streptopelia orientalis agricola** (Tickell). Eastern Rufous Turtle Dove.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂ (March 10). DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂, 1 juv. ♂ (June 9, 15). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang, 2 ♀♀ (April 17). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 6 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (March 20—April 4).

The Rufous Turtle Dove is a common bird in central Nepal. It is, however, not so common in the bhabar in spring and the dun in summer as it is in the Nepal Valley during March-May. It is usually found in the opener parts of forests, sometimes about villages.

Scully (1879, p. 341) found it throughout the year in the Valley where Proud (1949, p. 718), however, notes it only as a summer visitor (mid-March onwards). Lowndes (1955, p. 36) found it up to *c.* 3960 m. during summer in Manangbhot, central Nepal. In eastern Nepal, Ripley (1950b, p. 370) found it in the Arun watershed in winter from *c.* 305 to 2590 m. Biswas (1960a) recorded it in April-May between *c.* 3050 and 3960 m. in Khumbu and in June at *c.* 1525 m. in the Arun watershed. It would appear that the highest altitudinal limits of *meena* and *agricola* should be raised from the usually accepted *c.* 2745 m. (Ripley, in press) to *c.* 3960 m.

Most of my March and April specimens were breeding.

The juvenile male bird (June 15) is in very worn plumage.

Measurements :

	8 ♂♂	4 ♀♀
Wing :	180 (2), 182, 187, 188, 193, 197 (2)	185, 187, 190, 195
Tail :	122 (2), 125, 129, 135, 136, 138, 140	123, 126, 130 (2)
Rhamphotheca :	8 (4), 8.5, 9, — (2)	8, 8.5 (2), 9

From an examination of breeding examples, it appears that *S. o. meena* intergrades with *agricola* in central Nepal. One may find there all gradations from true *meena* to true *agricola*, especially with regard to the colour of the under tail coverts, contrary to Rand & Fleming's (1957, p. 71) conjecture (see also Scully, 1879, p. 341). The position, of course, is not quite so easy or clear when all birds are taken into consideration, for, as has been rightly suspected by Rand & Fleming, migrants, particularly early comers and late goers, complicate the picture considerably. However, so far as breeding populations in Nepal are concerned, I think the following working arrangement should prove satisfactory :

Western and west-central Nepal : *S. o. meena*

Central Nepal : *S. o. meena* $\gtrless$ *agricola*

Eastern Nepal : *S. o. agricola*

It may incidentally be noted that my casual study based mainly on the materials of the American Museum of Natural History and the British Museum as presented above, is in fair agreement with Roonwal's (1941, p. 331) observation based on the Indian Museum material.

Both Ripley and Rand & Fleming identified their breeding specimens from the Nepal Valley as *meena*. Their few examples, like some of mine and Scully's and Bailey's (at the British Museum), must be towards the *meena*-side of intergradation. The taxonomy of the species *S. orientalis* poses an intriguing problem, especially in its Indian populations, which only a thorough revisional study can solve.

218. **Streptopelia decaocto decaocto** (Frivaldszky). Indian Ring Dove.

CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (April 27).

The Ring Dove was not met with by us in the Nepal Valley where Proud (1955, p. 71) found it, though not normally, at the end of the monsoon in flocks feeding on paddy. However, we came across a few about cultivated fields in the Chitlang Valley, and scarcely in the central dun. All other workers reported this species only from the plains to the duns.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Rhamphotheca
1 ♂ :	172	134	—
1 ♀ :	171	130	9

Compared with the populations from Iran and Afghanistan, the Indian birds are a trifle darker, with a little more grey on the lower plumage.

219. **Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis** (Temminck). Eastern Red Turtle Dove.

DUN : Hitaura : 5♂♂, 1 juv. ♂, 3 ♀♀ (May 21, June 15-23, July 10-12).

The Red Turtle Dove is not an uncommon bird in the duns of central Nepal during summer. It usually occurs in pairs or in small loose parties, feeding in the forest clearings, such as cut-up patches, forest paths, etc.

Scully (1879, p. 342) found it common in the central bhabar and dun in winter. Proud (1949, p. 718) noted it as a summer visitor, though not very common, in the Nepal Valley. Ripley (1950b) and Rand & Fleming (1957) did not record it from Nepal.

Most of my June and July specimens are worn, a few very much so. A male bird (June 15) has moulting upper tail coverts and central tail feathers, while a female (June 20) has only the upper tail coverts in moult.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Rhamphotheca
5 ♂♂ :	136 (2), 140 (2), 141	86+, 89+, 90, —(2)	7, 7.5, 8, — (2)
3 ♀♀ :	136 (2), 141	83+, 87, —	7, 8.5, —

I agree with Whistler & Kinnear (1936, p. 680) in not recognizing Bonaparte's *murvensis* (=Hartert's *murmensis*), since the birds from Nepal differ very little, if at all, from those of Assam and Burma. However, there appears to be scope for further detailed study of the western and southern Indian populations, especially of their breeding ranges and movements during the non-breeding season. It may be mentioned in this connexion that in southern India where the type locality of the nominate subspecies lies, two distinct forms occur. Thus, of the four southern specimens I have examined (two from Mysore and two from Coimbatore), three are very close to Sikkim-Assam birds, that is *humilis*, while the fourth one matches well with Panjab-Uttar Pradesh birds. But this specimen could as well be a migrant from the north, it being taken on December 17.

Standard works on Indian ornithology, such as those of Baker (1928, p. 251), Peters (1937, p. 97), and Ripley (in press), have all mentioned ' western Nepal ' within the range of the nominate subspecies. Although the western Nepali birds may possibly belong to that subspecies, I am unable to trace any reported collection of actual specimen of the species from that part of the country.

220. **Streptopelia chinensis suratensis** (Gmelin). Indian Spotted Dove.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (March 9, 10). DUN : Hitaura, Paharé Ghat : 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 2 juv. ♀♀ (May 25-28, June 10-13). NEPAL VALLEY : Kathmandu and its suburbs, Thankot : 6 ♂♂, 1 subad. ♂, 8 ♀♀, (March 20-April 23).

The Spotted Dove is one of the commonest birds of central Nepal

from the bhabar up to the Nepal Valley, particularly in and around fields of paddy and pulses.

One of my adult female specimens (Kathmandu, March 24) has a few faint blackish bars on the breast, abdomen, flanks and under tail coverts. The subadult male specimen (Thankot, April 2) has the underside brownish vinous and its wing coverts are edged with rufous.

The subadult male has the upper tail coverts, a female (Kathmandu, March 20) both the rump and upper tail coverts, and a male (Hitaura, June 22) the central rectrices, in moult.

Colours of soft parts : Iris pinkish red; orbital skin and edges of eyelids pink; bill black; legs and feet dull purplish red; claws dark horny; pads white.

All the adult examples taken between March and June had breeding gonads.

Measurements : 11 ♂♂ : Wing 135, 137, 138, 142 (3), 143, 144, 146, 151, — ; tail 131, 136 (4), 137+, 138, 143, 144, 148, 150 ; rhamphotheca 7.5 (2), 8 (4), 8.5 (2), 9, —(2).

10 ♀♀ : Wing 133, 135, 136, 138.5, 139, 140, 141 (2), 143, 145 ; tail 125, 130, 131, 132, 134 (2), 135, 139, 140, 141; rhamphotheca 7.5 (3), 8 (5), 8.5, —.

221. **Chalcophaps indica indica** (Linnaeus). Indian Emerald Dove.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂ (March 10). DUN : Hitaura : 5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (May 12-29).

The Emerald Dove is not uncommon in the forests of the bhabar and dun of central Nepal. Scully (1879) did not report it from Nepal.

One of my female specimens (May 12) has chestnut central rectrices.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Rhamphotheca
6 ♂♂ :	148, 149, 151, 152, 153, 156	92 (2), 93, 94, 95, 99	9 (3), 9.5, — (2)
2 ♀♀ :	140, 144	87, 89	8, 8.5

Order PSITTACIFORMES

Family PSITTACIDAE

222. **Psittacula eupatria nipalensis** (Hodgson). Large Indian Parakeet.

TARAI : Simra : 1 ♂ (March 5). BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (March 10).

The Large Indian Parakeet occurs in small numbers in the forests of the tarai and bhabar of central Nepal. Although Scully (1879, p. 240) reported it from the dun, we failed to find any there. Ripley (1950b, p. 371) and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 72) recorded it from the lowlands of western and west-central Nepal.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Culmen from cere
2 ♂♂ :	224, 234	345+, —	35, 37
1 ♀ :	215	295+	34

223. **Psittacula krameri borealis** (Neumann). Northern Indian Roseringed Parakeet.

TARAI : Simra : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (March 4, 5). BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (March 10, June 8).

The Roseringed Parakeet is common in the tarai and bhabar in light forests and near villages.

The June specimens (1 ♂, 1 ♀) had non-breeding gonads.

Colours of soft parts : Iris pale yellow; upper mandible coral red with black tip; lower mandible black on anterior third and mixed black and red or dusky red posteriorly; legs and feet greenish slaty; claws black; pads greenish grey.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Culmen from cere
2 ♂♂ :	171, 173	243, —	24 (2)
3 ♀♀ :	165, 169, 174	222+, — (2)	22, 23, 24

224. **Psittacula alexandri fasciata** (P. L. S. Müller). Indian Redbreasted Parakeet.

Psittacus fasciatus P. L. S. Müller, 1776, *Vollstädiges Natursyst.*, Suppl., : 74. (Pondicherry, South India, error, fixed at Arakan, Burma, by Ticehurst, 1933, p. 934, but see discussion below.)

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (March 10). DUN : Hitaura 2 ♂♂, 1 juv. ♀ (May 19, June 16, July 14).

The Redbreasted Parakeet was found by us in the forests of the bhabar and dun of central Nepal in flocks of about a dozen or more. Scully (1879, p. 244) recorded it from the Nepal Valley in August-October, where subsequent workers failed to find it. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 73) found it in west-central Nepal between *c.* 1220 and 1525 m. in winter. It is not included in Ripley's (1950b) list.

The juvenile female specimen (July 14) is green all over, and is evidently a bird of the year.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Culmen from cere
3 ♂♂ :	168, 169, 171	151+, 174+, —	24, 25, 26.5
2 ♀♀ :	164, 165	150, —	24 (2)

The type locality of *Psittacus fasciatus* as given by Müller, namely Pondicherry, was evidently an error, and Ticehurst (loc. cit.) fixed it as Arakan. Müller's description of the species was based on Daubenton's *Planches enluminees*, pl. 517, which was published in 1770. The specimen(s) on which the plate was based, was collected probably before 1762 (Stresemann, 1952, p. 502). Now, Arakan was practically unknown to Europeans even in 1776, so that unless it can be proved beyond any reasonable doubt that the original specimen(s) did actually come from Arakan, it seems reasonable to attach no importance to Ticehurst's arbitrary fixation of the type locality. It may be pointed out here that Chandernagore in Bengal was in French possession during

those days and earlier, and it certainly was not very difficult for a French naturalist or collector stationed there to obtain specimens from the Himalayan foothills and duars in northern Bengal. The other possibility is that the original specimen(s) did not come from India or Upper Burma at all, but from some other area within the range of the species, visited by early French collectors.

225. **Psittacula cyanocephala bengalensis** (Forster). Northern Indian Blossomheaded Parakeet.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (March 10). DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂, 3 juv. ♂♂ 1 juv. ♀ (May 28, 30, June 7, 26, July 23).

The Blossomheaded Parakeet was found by us in the forests of only the bhabar and dun of central Nepal.

Although Scully (1879, p. 242) did not find it in the Nepal Valley ' except probably as a mere straggler ', Proud (1949, p. 715) noted it to be moderately common on the hills round the Valley. It was not found there by Ripley (1950b, p. 371) who reported it from eastern Nepal from the tarai up to *c.* 1830 m., nor by Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 73) who found it only in the lowlands of west-central and eastern Nepal.

The juvenile specimens are all birds of the year. Of them, two males May 30, July 23) and a female (June 7) are in the first stage plumage. The other male specimen (May 28) is moulting from the first to the second stage.

The adult male bird from Hitaura (June 26) is very worn.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Culmen from cere
3 ♂♂ :	141, 143, 144+	207, — (2)	18.5, 19 (2)
1 ♀ :	138	200	18

Rand & Fleming (1957, pp. 73-74) suggest synonymizing *rosa* and *bengalensis* with *cyanocephala*, with which I am unable to agree.

Nepal has been included within the range of the allied species *Psittacula roseata* Biswas (*rosa* or *bengalensis* of authors, not of Boddaert or Forster, respectively) by Baker (1927, p. 206), presumably on the basis of Salvadori's (1891, pp. 454-455) identification of Hodgson's specimens. However, such of those specimens as could be traced are all worn examples of *Ps. cyanocephala.*

226. **Psittacula himalayana** (Lesson). Slatyheaded Parakeet.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 2 ♂♂ (March 8, 9). DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂ (May 24). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♂, 1 juv. ♂ (April 4, 14).

The Slatyheaded Parakeet is found in small flocks in light forests of central Nepal. It does not appear to be common anywhere.

Scully (1879, p. 243) reported it only from the Nepal Valley between December and April. Proud (1949, p. 715) also noted it in the Nepal

Valley, and on the lower hills around. Ripley (1950b, p. 371) found it only once and that was in western Nepal at *c.* 1525 m. in December. Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 74) recorded it from *c.* 1370-2135 m. in west-central and central Nepal in winter. We found it, as mentioned above, between *c.* 245 and 1525 m. in central Nepal in March-May. Incidentally, the lowest altitude for this bird has been given by Ripley (in press) as *c.* 610 m.

The juvenile specimen (April 14) is green all over, and is very worn. The adult bird from Hitaura (♂, May 24) is also worn.

Measurements : 4 ♂♂ : Wing 158+, 160, 165, 168 ; tail —, 223, 224, 243 ; culmen from cere 21(2), 21.5, 23.

I agree with Husain (1959, p. 249) in treating *Ps. himalayana* as a species distinct from *Ps. finschi* (Hume).

*227. **Loriculus vernalis vernalis** (Sparrman). Indian Lorikeet.

Although the standard works on Indian avifauna, e.g. Baker (1927, p. 217), Peters (1937, p. 256), and Ripley (in press) do not include Nepal within the range of this species, Hodgson presented two skins from the 'Tarai of Nepal' to the British Museum (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 113). It has not since been reported from Nepal, however.

Order CUCULIFORMES

Family CUCULIDAE

228. **Clamator coromandus** (Linnaeus). Redwinged Crested Cuckoo.

DUN : Hitaura : 5 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (May 12-June 5).

The Redwinged Crested Cuckoo is fairly common in the dun during summer in dense as well as light forests, sometimes even in thorny undergrowths and bushes. It is rather noisy, and occurs singly or in loose parties of three or four.

We were not able to locate it in the Nepal Valley where Scully (1879, p. 257) who noticed it at Godavari in May, thought it bred. Neither Ripley (1950b), nor Rand & Fleming (1957) recorded it from Nepal.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
5 ♂♂ :	160.5, 162, 163, 165.5, 166	238, 243+, 251,— (2)	31.5, 32 (2), 33, 33.5
3 ♀♀ :	164, 165, 168	240+, 248+, 258	32 (2), 34

229. **Clamator jacobinus serratus** (Sparrman). Pied Crested Cuckoo.

DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (June 21, 23).

The Pied Crested Cuckoo appears to be rather scarce in central Nepal. We came across only a few individuals in the forests at Hitaura in the dun. Scully (1879), Ripley (1950b) and Rand & Fleming (1957) failed

to find it in Nepal ; and Proud (1949, p. 714) saw it only once at Kathmandu, Nepal Valley, in April.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
1 ♂ :	148	170	28
1 ♀ :	143	150+	26.5

230. **Cuculus sparverioïdes sparverioïdes** Vigors. Large Hawk-Cuckoo.

CHANDRAGIRI : above Thankot, above Chitlang, on the crest : 3 ♂♂ (April 6-22). Also one specimen without exact locality, date and sex.

The Large Hawk-Cuckoo is frequently heard from about the beginning of April on the ranges surrounding the Nepal Valley at *c.* 1675 m. upwards. It is also found on the Mahabharat Range in May. Nowhere, however, is it seen easily owing to the thick cover it selects. It has also been recorded in winter at *c.* 1830 m. in west-central Nepal by Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 74), and at *c.* 1525 m. in eastern Nepal in June by Biswas (1960a). Ripley (1950b) did not include it in his list.

One of my specimens (April 22) had the testes slightly enlarged, measuring 5×3.5 (right) and 6×4 (left) mm.

Colours of soft parts : Iris orange-yellow ; edges of eyelids lemon yellow ; upper mandible dark horny, paler on the tip ; lower mandible greenish slaty, dusky on the sides of anterior half and on the tip ; gape dull lemon yellow ; legs and feet lemon yellow ; claws pale horny with yellowish tinge ; pads dirty lemon yellow.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
3 ♂♂ :	213, 227, 228	202, 205, —	28, 29, —
1 unsexed :	225	—	30

231. **Cuculus varius varius** Vahl. Common Hawk-Cuckoo.

DUN : Hitaura : 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 juv. ♀ (May 19-28, June 6, 21).

This hawk-cuckoo is heard only sometimes in the Nepal Valley during April-May, but is fairly common during summer in the bhabar and dun. It is noticed around villages and the edges of forests.

It was reported breeding in small numbers in the Valley by Scully 1879, p. 256) who noted it there from February onwards. Proud (1949, p.714) recorded it to be scarce there. Ripley (1950b, p. 371) found it in the central plains (Birganj) in winter, and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 75) in the lowlands in the same season.

The juvenile female specimen (June 21) has rufous bars next to black on tail, ill-defined rufous barrings on the upper side, and a rufous wash on the underside, heavily streaked with blackish brown.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
3 ♂♂ :	205, 206, 213	174, 180, 188	28, 30, 31
2 ♀♀ :	206, 207	177+, 179+	29 (2)

Regarding Hodgson's collection of *C. varius*, see note under the next form.

*232. **Cuculus fugax nisicolor** Blyth. Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo.

Hodgson's collection (Gray & Gray, 1846, p. 120 ; Gray, 1863, p. 66) provides the sole record of this hawk-cuckoo from Nepal. Gray & Gray, and Gray both listed Hodgson's specimens of this form and those of *C. varius* together. However, Shelley (1891, pp. 235, 238) gave four specimens of *varius* and two of *nisicolor* presented by Hodgson from Nepal.

233. **Cuculus micropterus micropterus** Gould. Indian Cuckoo.

DUN : Bhimphedi : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (May 6, 10). MARKHU VALLEY : Deorali : 2 ♂♂ (May 1). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 ♂ (April 16). NEPAL VALLEY : Pashupatinath : 1 ♂ (April 28).

The Indian Cuckoo is common from the Markhu Valley to the Nepal Valley in April and May. In the upper parts of the central dun it is rather scarce in early May. We did not find it later in the bhabar and dun.

Scully (1879) did not report it from Nepal. Biswas (1960a) found it in the Arun watershed, eastern Nepal, at *c.* 1525 m. in June.

One of my male specimens (Deorali, May 1) still has traces of rufous on the upper parts.

In the male bird from the Nepal Valley, the testes had just commenced maturing.

Colours of soft parts : Iris reddish brown; edges of eyelids yellow; upper mandible dark horny with yellow on the base and gape; lower mandible pale grey with yellow on the base and dark horny on the tip; legs and feet yellow; claws dark horny; pads white.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
5 ♂♂ :	192, 195, 201, 204, 207	151, 159, 195+, 160,—	30, 31, 32 (2),—
1 ♀ :	207	161+	30

See note under *C. p. poliocephalus* (p. 543) regarding Hodgson's collection of *C. micropterus.*

234. **Cuculus canorus telephonus** Heine. Asiatic Cuckoo.

DUN : Hitaura : 2 ♂♂ (June 12, 21). MARKHU VALLEY : Deorali : 1 ♂ (April CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (April 16, July 2). NEPAL VALLEY : Sheopuri Range off Burhanilkantha, Patan, Thankot : 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (April 12, May 2, 17).

The Asiatic Cuckoo is a common bird from the Mahabharat Range to the Nepal Valley during April-May. In the Valley it is found common in the central woods as also on the hills bordering it. In the central dun, however, it is quite scarce in May-June. The two specimens collected there by us in June might probably be late-comers from the winter

quarters, or else breeding there, but no record of the condition of their gonads was unfortunately kept.

Stevens (1925b, p. 679) reported it from the Mai Valley, eastern Nepal, at *c.* 2745 m. Ripley (1950b) did not mention this species in his list. Polunin (1955, p. 895) occasionally heard it in the oak forests of the Langtang Valley, central Nepal, during June. Lowndes (1955, p. 35) found it plentiful and breeding at *c.* 3655-3960 m. in Manangbhot, central Nepal, during June-August. Biswas (1960a) found it common in eastern Nepal between *c.* 1220 and 2745 m. in June, but less common above up to *c.* 4265 m. in May.

One of my male specimens (May 2) has the throat feathers in moult.

The same specimen and another male (May 17) had the gonads just commenced swelling.

Colours of soft parts : Iris and edges of eyelids chrome yellow ; bill dark horny with yellow on the base and gape, and light grey with yellowish wash on the middle part of the lower mandible ; legs and feet yellow ; claws light grey ; pads white.

Measurements :

	8 ♂♂	2 ♀♀
Wing :	211, 215 (2), 223, 225, 226, 232, 243	217, 223
Tail :	—, 165, 167, 168, 172, 175, 183 (2)	163, 165
Bill :	26.5, 28 (2), 28.5, 29, — (3)	27.5 (2)

[cf. ♂♀ wing 220-227 ; tail 155-178, as given by Baker (1927, p. 137).]

This subspecies seems to be ill-defined indeed.

235. **Cuculus saturatus saturatus** Blyth. Himalayan Cuckoo.

Dun : Hitaura, Bhimphedi : 1 ♂, 1 juv. ♂, 1 ♀ (May 10, June 15, 17). Markhu Valley : Deorali ; 1 ♂, 1 juv. ♀ (April 29, May 1). Chitlang Valley : Chitlang : 1 ♂ (April 20). Nepal Valley : Thankot, top of Chandragiri Range above Thankot, Godavari, Phulchauki Danda above Godavari : 9 ♂♂, 1 nestling ♂, 1 hepatic ♀ (March 29, April 4-16, May 10-12).

On the hills surrounding the Nepal Valley and on the Chitlang side of the Chandragiri, the Himalayan Cuckoo is very common from about the middle of April. Its characteristic four-noted sonorous call could be heard almost any time of the day, and even on moonlit nights. It is seldom seen below *c.* 1525 m.

The central dun birds taken in May and June might probably represent late-comers from the winter quarters.

It was not found in Nepal by Ripley (1950b). Biswas (1960a) reported it to be common between *c.* 1525 and 3050 m. in eastern Nepal in June.

Two of my males and the hepatic female, taken April 15, 16, May 12, had slightly enlarged gonads, the female having its largest ova measuring 4 and 6 mm.

The nestling (Godavari, May 10) was collected on the ground while it was being pecked at by four Redbilled Blue Magpies, apparently stolen

from its foster-parent's care. It had severe injuries on the head (part of the brain was exposed), eyes and abdomen. It died soon after it was rescued from its predators.

One of the adult males (Hitaura, June 17) is in very worn plumage, except the central rectrices which are moulting.

HEPATIC FEMALE: Chin, throat and upper breast pale rufous with blackish brown bars, sides of the throat and of upper breast chestnut and blackish brown bars ; lower breast to under tail coverts white with blackish brown bars, with a slight rufous tinge on the vent and under tail coverts.

JUVENILE : Male, June 15.—General coloration dark grey-brown with white bars on the upper side, chin and throat.

Female, April 29.—Rufous with blackish brown bars all over.

NESTLING : Upper plumage and chin to breast blackish brown, with narrow white edges to feathers ; abdomen and vent faint fulvous heavily barred with broad bands of blackish brown ; primaries barred on the outer webs with rufous. Remiges and under wing coverts growing. Rectrices not yet developed.

Colours of soft parts : ADULT MALE : Iris reddish brown ; edges of eyelids yellow; upper mandible dark horny with pale yellow on the base, and greenish horny patches in front of nostrils (absent in one specimen) ; lower mandible pale greenish horny with yellow on the base, and dark horny on the edges of the anterior half and tip ; gape yellow (once orange-yellow) ; legs and feet yellow (legs once yellowish horny) ; claws horny with yellow on the tips (once fleshy) ; pads white.

HEPATIC FEMALE : Iris brownish yellow ; upper mandible dark horny, a little paler on the base, yellowish white patches in front of nostrils, and yellow on the sides below nostrils ; lower mandible horny with darker tip, and yellow on the base and sides of the proximal third ; legs and feet wax yellow; claws horny with yellow on the tips of the outer and inner ones. Eyelids, gape and pads as in adult male.

NESTLING : Iris dark brownish grey ; bill black ; legs fleshy ; feet yellowish fleshy ; claws fleshy ; pads yellowish fleshy.

Measurements :

	12 ♂♂	1 ♀	1 hep. ♀
Wing :	179+, 182, 183, 184, 185 (2), 186, 187 (2), 188, 192 (2)	186	180
Tail :	144, 145, 146+, 148, 149, 151+, 155, 156 (2),—(3)	159	147
Bill :	27, 27.5, 28 (5), 29, 30, — (3)	28	27

[cf. measurements given by Baker (1927, p. 141) : ♂♀ : wing 208-226; tail 151-176.]

Regarding Hodgson's collection of the Himalayan Cuckoo, see note under *C. p. poliocephalus* (below).

236. **Cuculus poliocephalus poliocephalus** Latham. Small Cuckoo.

MARKHU VALLEY : Deorali : 2 ♂♂ (April 28, 30). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♀ (July 25).

The Small Cuckoo was seen by us only on a few occasions in deep

gorges on the Chandragiri and Mahabharat ranges. It appears to be a very shy bird.

Scully (1879) did not find it in Nepal, nor was it reported thence by Rand & Fleming (1957). Stevens (1925b, p. 679) recorded it from the Mai Valley, eastern Nepal at *c.* 2135 m. in May. Ripley (1950b, p. 371) found a single specimen in the Nepal Valley in mid-April, where Proud (1955, p. 69) noted it as common between *c.* 1525 and 2135 m. in April.

My female specimen still has traces of chestnut bars on the head and nape.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
2 ♂♂ :	155, 155.5	130, 132	24, —
1 ♀ :	149	128	23.5

In listing Hodgson's collection of cuckoos, Gray & Gray (1846, pp. 119-120) and Gray (1863, p. 65) made a curious mixture of *C. micropterus*, *C. saturatus*, and *C. poliocephalus*. However, from a reference to Shelley (1891, pp. 243-244, 254, 257) we find that Hodgson presented 5 specimens of *C. micropterus*, 11 of *C. saturatus*, and 6 of *C. poliocephalus* to the British Museum.

237. **Cuculus sonnerati sonnerati** Latham. Indian Banded Bay Cuckoo.

DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂ (May 26).

We came across the Banded Bay Cuckoo in Nepal once, when the specimen was collected.

Gray & Gray (1846) and Gray (1863) did not mention any specimen of this species in the Hodgson collection, but Shelley (1891, p. 264) listed two examples presented by Hodgson. This cuckoo was not reported from Nepal by Scully (1879), Ripley (1950b) or Rand & Fleming (1957).

Measurements : 1 ♂ : Wing 118 ; tail 114+; bill 25.

238. **Cuculus passerinus** Vahl. Indian Plaintive Cuckoo.

MARKHU VALLEY : Kulikhani : 1 ♂ (April 27). CHITLANG VALLEY : Chitlang: 2 ♂♂ (July 2).

The Indian Plaintive Cuckoo is scarce in Nepal. It occurs near villages between the Mahabharat and Chandragiri ranges.

After Hodgson's collection, ours appears to be the only record of this species from Nepal.

The Chitlang specimens had remains of caterpillars in their stomachs.

Measurements : 3 ♂♂ : Wing 116, 118, 120 ; tail 113, 114, 115 ; bill 22, 23 (2).

Biswas (1951b) has shown that the greybellied *C. passerinus* and the rufousbellied *C. querulus* should be treated as distinct species.

*239. **Chrysococcyx maculatus** (Gmelin). Emerald Cuckoo.

The only post-Hodgsonian record of the Emerald Cuckoo from Nepal is Proud's (1955, p. 69), who once saw a small party in Kathmandu, Nepal Valley, on September 7.

240. **Surniculus lugubris dicruroïdes** (Hodgson). Indian Drongo-Cuckoo.

DUN : Hitaura, Paharé Ghat, Bhimphedi : 8 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ (May 5-26, June 1-19, July 20). NEPAL VALLEY : Godavari, Thankot : 4 ♂♂ (April 13, May 10-20).

The Drongo-Cuckoo is a common bird in the wooded parts of the Nepal Valley, the bases of the hills surrounding it, and in the duns. It is usually found in the clearings and edges of forests.

Scully (1879) did not report it from Nepal, and Rand & Fleming (1957, p. 75) found it only in the lowlands.

The July specimen had caterpillars in its stomach.

The April specimens had non-breeding gonads. By May swelling of the gonads had already commenced (right testes measured 3.75-5× 2-3 mm. and the left, 5-6×3-4), and in June the birds were in breeding condition. A male on June 14 had 10×6 (right) and 12×7.5 (left) mm. testes ; a female on June 11 had a 10 mm. ovum, and another female was laying on June 19,—it had an oviducal egg heavily spotted purplish around ends.

Colours of soft parts : Iris dark brown (once reddish brown) ; bill black ; legs and feet bluish slaty ; claws horny ; pads white.

Measurements :

	12 ♂♂	4 ♀♀
Wing :	138 (2), 141, 142 (2), 144, 144+, 145, 145.5, 146, 147, 148	139+, 143.5, 144, 145.5
Tail :	130+, 132, 133, 137, 138, 139 (2), 140, 141, 142,— (2)	128, — (3)
Bill :	24, 25 (2), 25.5, 26 (4), 26.5 (2), — (2)	25, 26 (2), —

[cf. tail length ♂♀ : 106-133, according to Baker (1927, p. 165).]

241. **Eudynamys scolopacea scolopacea** (Linnaeus). Indian Koel.

NEPAL VALLEY : Pashupatinath, Thankot : 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (March 30, April 14, 28, May 20).

The Koel is common about villages of the Nepal Valley during spring and summer. It is, however, not found on the hills surrounding the Valley. Biswas (1960a) reported it from the Arun watershed, eastern Nepal, at *c.* 915-1525 m. in June.

One of my male specimens (May 20, breeding) has all the primary coverts and the outermost primary tipped white, and the four outermost secondaries narrowly fringed with white. An examination of adult male specimens available to me from all over India shows that white is present in about 13.5 per cent specimens in varying degrees on all or some wing coverts, wing feathers, upper tail coverts, tail feathers, and even feathers of the neck, breast and abdomen, the tips of rectrices frequently being very pale rufous instead of white. The birds with white-tipped feathers have all been taken in the months of February, May, September, October,

and November. Reference to available literature does not give me any idea of the significance of these spots.

On April 28 a female specimen had quite a large ovary, measuring 23×25, with the largest ova 13 and 11 mm., while a male taken May 20, had a 10.5×7.5 mm. right testis.

Colours of soft parts : Iris crimson ; bill greenish horny but without greenish on the base, around nostrils and tip of upper mandible (in one specimen, however, it was dark horny on the basal half, horny on culmen and greenish horny on the anterior half) ; legs and feet plumbeous ; claws dark horny ; pads white.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
3 ♂♂ :	199, 202, 205	186, 189, 205	32 (2), 33.5
2 ♀♀ :	188, 192	181+, 189	32.5, 33

242. **Taccocua tristis tristis** (Lesson). Himalayan Greenbilled Malkoha.

TARAI : Simra : 1 ♀ (March 5). BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 3 ♀♀ (March 9, 10). DUN : Hitaura, Paharé Ghat, Bhimphedi : 4 ♂♂, 1 juv. ♂, 1 fledgling ♂, 6 ♀♀ (March 13, May 8—June 20, July 12). NEPAL VALLEY : Thankot : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (April 8, 9).

The Greenbilled Malkoha is relatively a rare bird in the Nepal Valley, but in the bhabar and dun of central Nepal, it is very common in the forests, both in the dense parts and in the thorny bushes.

The coloration of the fledgling male (June 1) is similar to that of adult, birds. The tail is proportionately very small. The juvenile male (July 12) has the tail about half-grown.

A female was laying on May 24, while another on June 10 had the ovary not fully enlarged, its largest ovum being only 5 mm. Likewise a male on June 12 had the testes measuring only 6×3.5 (right) and 7×4 (left) mm.

Many of the specimens are worn, some very much so. Two female specimens (March 9 and June 10) have the central rectrices still growing, while other rectrices are fresh. Another female (June 12) has the rectrices and under tail coverts in moult. Tail moult in this species is found to be centripetal.

Colours of soft parts : ADULT : Iris brown (once crimson); orbital skin deep crimson; bill dark green with red on the base and around nostrils (once paler green on anterior two-thirds); legs and feet greenish slaty (once without green on feet); claws horny; pads white.

FLEDGLING : Iris brown, orbital skin dark brown ; upper mandible slaty horny ; lower mandible greenish horny ; legs and feet pale plumbeous ; claws dark horny ; pads white.

Measurements :

	5 ♂♂	11 ♀♀
Wing :	168, 168+, 170 (2), 171	164, —, 167+ (2), 169, 170 (2), 170+, 171, 172+, 173
Tail :	— (4), 385	— (6), 345, 390, 404, 405+, 415
Bill :	36 (2), 36.5 (2), 37	36 (5), 36.5, 37 (5

243. **Taccocua leschenaulti infuscata** Blyth. Hill Sirkeer Cuckoo.

BHABAR : Amlekhganj : 1 ♂ (March 7). DUN : Hitaura : 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (May 19).

The Sirkeer Cuckoo did not appear to us as a common bird in Nepal. It has not so far been reported from the Valley, but we came across it a few times in the central bhabar and dun, usually in scrub jungles.

The female specimen (May 19) had an enlarged ovary with the largest ovum about 6 mm. in diameter.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
2 ♂♂ :	156, 157	—, 226	33 (2)
1 ♀ :	158	230+	34

244. **Centropus sinensis sinensis** (Stephens). Common Crow-Pheasant.

DUN : Hitaura : 4 ♂♂, 1 juv. ♂, 1 ♀ (May 23, June 12-19).

During May and June the characteristic resonant call of the Crow-Pheasant is frequently heard in the central dun, but due to the presence of very thick undergrowth and its skulking habits, it is not so commonly seen.

Ours appears to be the only post-Hodgsonian record of this species from Nepal.

The juvenile male specimen (June 19) corresponds very closely to Baker's (1927, p. 190) description of young birds, except that my specimen has the vent downy.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
4 ♂♂ :	193, 200, 208, 210	222+, 246, —, 254	38, 39.5, 40, 41
1 ♀ :	207	232 +	39

A comparison of the measurements of correctly sexed specimens from northern India and southern China with those from southern Assam, Burma, Siam, and Indo-China, reveals that individual variation in size is indeed very great in each population, so that Hume's *intermedius* from ' Dhoon [=Dehra Dun], Dacca and Thayetmyo ' can hardly be recognized.

245. **Centropus toulou bengalensis** (Gmelin). Lesser Crow-Pheasant.

DUN : Hitaura : 5 ♂♂, 5♀♀ (May 30, June 13-20, July 28).

The Lesser Crow-Pheasant is not uncommon in the central dun. It occurs in grass and scrub forests.

I am unable to find any record save ours for this species from Nepal since Hodgson's days.

One of the testes of a July specimen measured 14 mm. long.

Measurements :

	Wing	Tail	Bill
5 ♂♂ :	137+, 141, 143, 144, 148	163, 165, 181+, — (2)	25, 26, 27 (2), —
5 ♀♀ :	161+, 163+, 164, 166+, 169	180+, 200, — (3)	28, 29, 29.5, 30.5, —

(*To be continued*)